IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Kevin P. BAKER, et al.

Application Serial No. 10/006,818

Filed: December 6, 2001

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Customer: Hamud, Fozia M.

Art Unit: 1647

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Customer No. 35489

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL 977 678 053 US

ACIDS ENCODING THE SAME

Date Mailed: AUGUST 19, 2004

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on March 19, 2004, in connection with the above-identified patent application (Paper No./Mail Date 031504), please enter the following amendments, and consider the following arguments. This response is timely filed requesting a Petition for Extension of Time for two months with necessary fees.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

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